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Tuesday, June 5, 2018 metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

RETURN OF THE SYNTHS

Move over 'Westworld,' 'Humans' is back. 16

Here's where to get some unique Philly souvenirs. 18-19

SCOTUS backs Christian baker in same-sex wedding cake case. 6

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KNEE-JERK REACTION

With many Eagles skipping Tuesday's White House ceremony because of the NFL's ongoing national anthem controversy, President Donald Trump abruptly disinvited the entire team from the event. 4-5

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5 THINGS TO KNOW

WELCOME TO METRO PHILLY

JOE PANTORNO, SPORTS EDITOR

The divide between the church that is the NFL and state that is this country continues to grow at an alarming rate. On Monday evening, President Donald Trump uninvited the Super Bowl champion Philadelphia Eagles, who were supposed to visit the White House this morning. As a surprise to no one, the national anthem controversy is at the epicenter of what should be described as a feud. Read more on page 4-5 and at **metro.us**.

1 STARBUCKS EXECUTIVE SCHULTZ TO STEP DOWN

Starbucks Corp. Executive Chairman Howard Schultz is stepping away from hands-on management at the global coffee chain, effective June 26, fuelling speculation that the outspoken, liberal-leaning executive will make a U.S. presidential bid. Schultz, 64, over roughly four decades has built Starbucks into one of the world's most powerful global brands. Under his leadership, the Seattle-based coffeeshop chain went from 11 cafes to over 28,000 in 77 countries. He became Starbucks' executive chairman last year, handing the chief executive job to Kevin Johnson at a time when growth in Starbucks' dominant U.S. market was showing signs of cooling. That cooling trend has not abated and some analysts and investors have begun pressing the company to temper new store openings in the United States, where it already has more than 14,000 locations. Some investors interpreted Monday's news as a sign that Schultz was finally making an expected move into politics.

2 BIG TESLA INVESTORS: FIREWALL FOR ELON MUSK

Tesla Inc. Chief Executive Elon Musk faces votes at Tuesday's shareholder meeting that will challenge his grip on the electric carmaker, but he may be able to count on some powerful friends: big fund managers likely to be fans. These stockpickers would have weighed Musk's forceful public persona in their decisions to buy and hold Tesla shares in the first place, and likely are ready to back him at the meeting to be held in Mountain View, California, said analysts, corporate governance experts and investors. They expect shareholders to elect three Tesla directors and vote to let Musk keep his chairman's title despite investor challenges and broader concerns with Tesla's production. "We're making a bet on Elon Musk," said one top-20 Tesla investor who plans to back the directors and vote to keep Musk's roles intact. The investor compared Musk to Apple Inc. founder Steve Jobs, saying, "These people are geniuses. You either believe in him or you don't." Said Morningstar analyst David Whiston, referring to big, actively managed funds holding Tesla.

3 SPACECRAFT LAUNCH PAD

A Soyuz MS-09 spacecraft is mounted on the launch pad at the Russian-leased Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on Monday. The launch of the Soyuz MS-09 with the members of the International Space Station (ISS) expedition 56/57, NASA astronaut Serena Aunon-Chancellor, Roscosmos cosmonaut Sergey Prokopyev and German astronaut Alexander Gerst is scheduled for Wednesday.

GETTY IMAGES

4 IMMIGRANT TEEN ABORTION RULING TOSSED

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday threw out a lower court ruling that let a pregnant illegal immigrant minor held in federal immigration custody obtain an abortion last year at age 17 over the objections of President Donald Trump's administration. The justices provided a legal victory to Trump's administration even though the teenager already has had the abortion because it eliminated a precedent at the federal appeals court level that could have applied in similar circumstances in which other detained minors sought abortions. In the unsigned opinion with no dissents, the justices threw out the lower court decision on the grounds that the dispute became moot once the teenager had the abortion. The girl, whose name and nationality were not disclosed and was called "Jane Doe" in legal papers, had an abortion on Oct. 25 in Texas, the day after a U.S. appeals court ruled against the Trump administration's objections. The case involves the intersection of two divisive social issues on which Trump has taken a hard line: abortion and immigration.

5 MANAFORT: POSSIBLE WITNESS TAMPERING

President Donald Trump's former campaign chairman, Paul Manafort, who has been indicted by U.S. Special Counsel Robert Mueller, attempted to tamper with potential witnesses, Mueller said in a court filing on Monday. Mueller, who is investigating possible collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia, asked the judge overseeing the case in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia to revoke or revise an order releasing Manafort ahead of his trial. Manafort was released to home confinement after his arraignment in October. Mueller has indicted Manafort in federal courts in Virginia and Washington, D.C., with an array of allegations from money-laundering and failing to register as a foreign agent, to bank and tax fraud. Manafort has pleaded not guilty. FBI Special Agent Brock Domin, in a declaration filed with Mueller's motion, said Manafort had attempted to call, text and send encrypted messages in February to two people from "The Hapsburg Group," a firm he worked with to promote the interests of Ukraine.

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NEWS

So much for the party.

JOE PANTORNO
joseph.pantorno@metro.us

Eagles White House party canceled

President Donald Trump announced in a statement on Monday evening that he has uninvited the Super Bowl champion Eagles to a ceremony at the White House celebrating their Super Bowl LII victory over the New England Patriots in February.

It once again boils down to the hot-button issue of the national anthem, a topic that has cast a divide through the NFL, its hierarchy and its fans.

From the president's statement:

"The Philadelphia Eagles are unable to come to the White House with their full team to be celebrated tomorrow. They disagree with their President because he insists that they proudly stand for the National Anthem, hand on heart, in honor of the great men and women of our military and the people of our country. The Eagles wanted to send a smaller delegation, but the 1,000 fans planning to attend the event deserve better. These fans are still invited to the White House to be part of a different type of ceremony — one that will honor our great country, pay tribute to the heroes who fight to protect it, and loudly and proudly play the National Anthem. I will be there at 3:00 p.m. with the United States Marine Band and the United States Army Chorus to celebrate America."

"The Philadelphia Eagles are unable to come to the White House with their full team to be celebrated tomorrow."

Donald trump

The Eagles will not be the first major sports champion that will be visiting the White House under the Trump administration. The Golden State Warriors and University of South Carolina women's basketball team chose not to appear on Pennsylvania Ave.

The Patriots, Houston Astros, and Alabama Crimson Tide football team have.

Players in the NFL have been the most outspoken about demonstrations during the national anthem, which was thrust to the forefront of national conversation when former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick decided to kneel during the anthem in 2016.

It set off a chain reaction of athletes across the NFL, then other leagues, taking part in similar practices whether it be kneeling, linking arms or raising fists in an attempt to take a stand against police brutality in the United States.

Among the Eagles, cornerback Malcolm Jenkins was one of the most vocal leaders of this movement, regularly raising his fist during the anthem. He was among the first to announce that he would not attend the White House.

"For me, there's a lot

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going on with that administration, and I don't think it's the time to really have any productive or constructive conversations about policy," Jenkins said (h/t Delaware News-Journal). "I definitely want to avoid being used as a kind of a pawn. And the way things have gone over the past few months, I don't think the time is right for that."

Super Bowl champions generally visit the White House in April, however, it was difficult for the Trump administration to get on the same page as the Eagles and its owner, Jeffrey Lurie. The 66-year-old has not held back in his criticisms of President Trump, calling his time as Commander-in-Chief "disastrous," per a New York Times report.

The Eagles won't be celebrating at the White House Tuesday like they did in February. GETTY IMAGES

Malcolm Jenkins has been one of the team's most outspoken voices. GETTY IMAGES

President Trump with members of the New England Patriots last year. GETTY IMAGES

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Supreme Court backs Christian baker who rebuffed gay couple

Liberal justices Stephen Breyer and Elena Kagan sided with conservatives in Monday's 7-2 vote.

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday handed a victory on narrow grounds to a Colorado baker who refused based on his Christian beliefs to make a wedding cake for a gay couple, stopping short of setting a major precedent allowing people to claim religious exemptions from anti-discrimination laws.

The justices, in a 7-2 decision, said the Colorado Civil Rights Commission showed an impermissible hostility toward religion when it found that baker Jack Phillips violated the state's anti-discrimination law by rebuffing gay couple David Mullins and Charlie Craig in 2012. The state law bars businesses from refusing service based on race, sex, marital status or sexual orientation.

The court concluded that the commission violated Phillips' religious rights under the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment.

But the justices did not issue a definitive ruling on the circumstances under which people can seek exemptions from anti-discrimination laws based on religion. The decision also did not address important claims raised in the case including whether baking a cake is a kind of expressive act protected by the Constitution's free speech guarantee.

Two of the court's four liberals, Stephen Breyer and Elena Kagan, joined the five conservative justices in the ruling authored by Justice Anthony Kennedy, who also wrote the landmark 2015 decision legalizing gay marriage nationwide.

Colorado baker Jack Phillips was handed a victory by the Supreme Court. GETTY IMAGES

"The First Amendment prohibits governments from discriminating against citizens on the basis of religious beliefs."

Attorney General Jeff Sessions

The baker case became a cultural flashpoint in the United States, underscoring the tensions between gay rights proponents and conservative Christians.

Both sides claimed a measure of victory. The couple's supporters noted that the ruling embraced the importance of gay rights and made it clear that businesses open to the public must serve everyone. The baker's lawyers said the ruling emphasized that the government must respect religious beliefs.

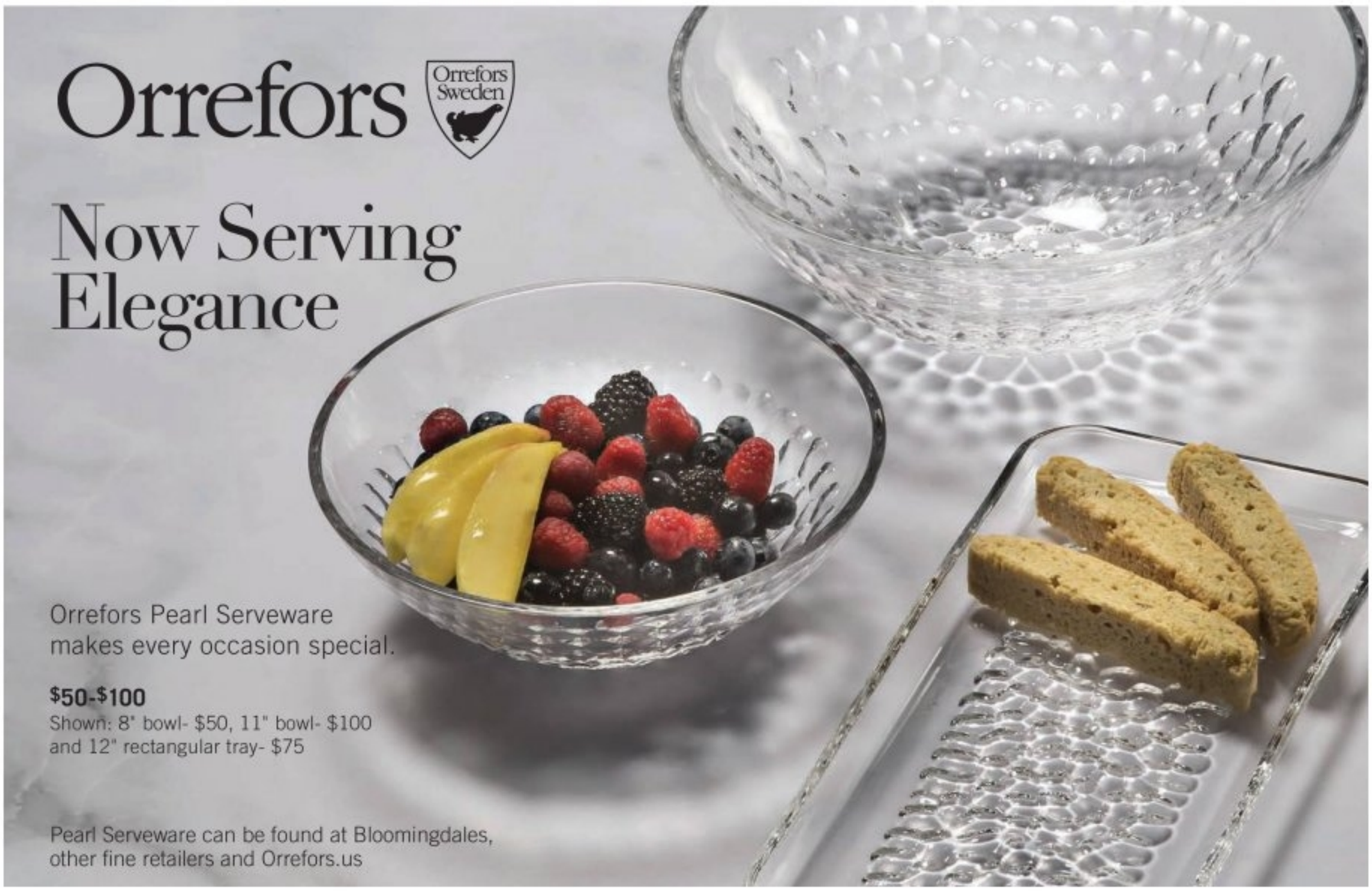
"Our society has come to the recognition that gay persons and gay couples cannot be treated as social outcasts or as inferior in dignity and worth," Kennedy wrote.

But Kennedy said the state commission's hostility toward religion "was inconsistent with the First Amendment's guarantee that our laws be applied in a manner that is neutral toward religion."

In one exchange at a 2014 hearing before the commission cited by Kennedy, former commissioner Diann Rice said that "freedom of religion, and religion, has been used to justify all kinds of discrimination throughout history, whether it be slavery, whether it be the Holocaust."

Kennedy said the commission ruled the opposite way in three cases brought against bakers in which the business owners refused to bake cakes containing messages that demeaned gay people or same-sex marriage.

President Donald Trump's administration, which intervened in the case in support of Phillips, welcomed the ruling. "The First Amendment prohibits governments from discriminating against citizens on the basis of religious beliefs," Attorney General Jeff Sessions said in a statement. REUTERS



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New Jersey lawmakers clobber sports leagues in betting bill

New Jersey's proposed gambling bill comes as sports betting is makes its debut in Delaware on Tuesday.

New Jersey lawmakers on Monday advanced a bill to legalize sports betting that omitted all of the fraud fighting measures requested by professional sports leagues, who had battled the legal change for years and got a drubbing from an angry legislator.

The bill, which moves to the full legislature for a likely vote on Thursday, is set to make New Jersey one of the first U.S. states to regulate and tax sports bets.

New Jersey Assemblyman Ralph Caputo, still upset after the state's years-long battle with the leagues over legalization, angrily rebuked representatives from the leagues at a hearing on Monday and said they would get none of the help or fees they requested.

$150B

New Jersey and other states are racing for a piece of the estimated $150 billion spent on illegal annual wagers in the United States.

"The tool you're looking for is money. That's not going to happen," said Caputo, who heads the state Assembly's gaming committee.

New Jersey and other states are racing for a piece of the estimated $150 billion spent on illegal annual wagers in the United States, after the U.S. Supreme Court in May overturned a 1992 law that had banned sports wagering except in a few places.

Delaware is set to roll out full-scale sports wagering on Tuesday. It was among the handful of states to already have legal sports betting, though it only allowed limited wagers.

Now, the leagues that oversee sports including baseball, football, and basketball, are asking for a share of revenues, saying their anti-corruption efforts must expand and they need the fees to investigate and enforce fair games.

"You guys are in it to make money. This is hypocrisy to the fullest extent," Caputo told Bryan Seeley, head of investigations, compliance and security at Major League Baseball.

Seeley said New Jersey's bill "does not give us the tools we need to protect our national pastime."

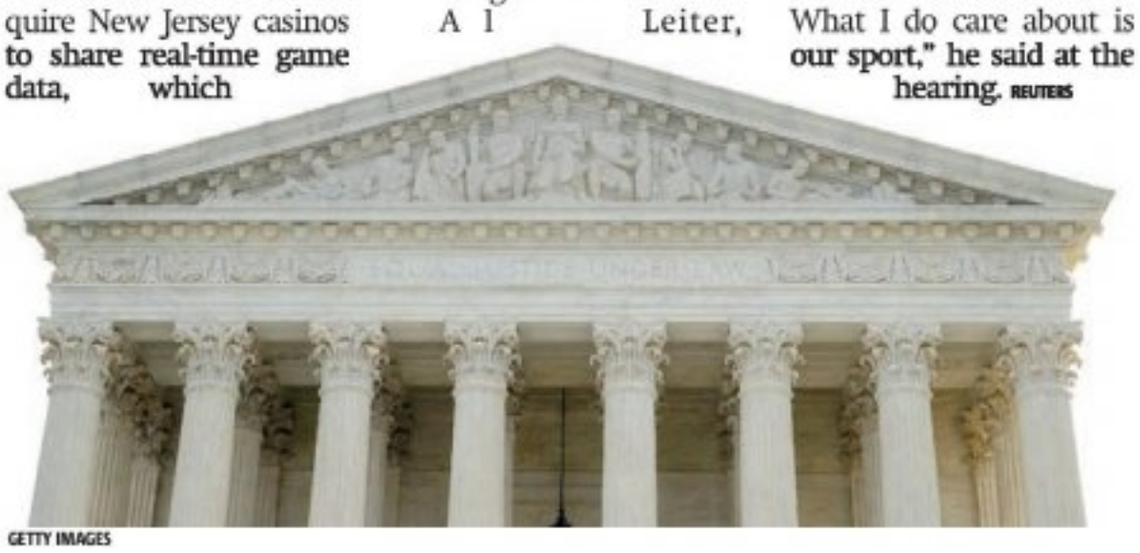
The bill does not require New Jersey casinos to share real-time game data, which leagues say they need to aggregate with other states' data to identify suspicious activity.

Nor does it require state regulators or casinos to share information with leagues — or each other — if they learn a game is fixed.

The legislation also does not bar bets on minor league baseball.

A l Leiter, a major league pitcher for 19 seasons, described how easy it could be to tempt a minor league player into fixing a bet by throwing a particular kind of pitch, for example, or allowing a trainer, equipment manager or masseuse to use injury information to run out and place a mobile bet.

"I'm a baseball player. I'm not on either side. What I do care about is our sport," he said at the hearing. REUTERS



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A woman at Pennypack Creek drowned over the weekend after a flash flood swept her away. GETTY IMAGES

Woman taking pictures in Pennypack Creek drowns in flash flood

Rebecca Bunting was killed after being swept away by rushing water at Pennypack Creek.

SAM NEWHOUSE
sam.newhouse@metro.us

A 30-year-old photographer was reportedly killed by flash flooding that suddenly sent powerful waves through Pennypack Creek while she was there to take pictures.

Rebecca Bunting, 30, of Philadelphia, was swept into the creek on Saturday, June 2, just as a powerful rainstorm began battering the region. Police diving crews had to call off their search that night due to increasingly powerful storm activity. When police resumed the search on Sunday, they found Bunting's body trapped under old furniture that was washed up in the creek upstream of Frankford Avenue, 6ABC reported.

"Just woke up to the devastating news that we lost a talented member of the urbex (abandoned/urban exploration) community," wrote photographer Michael E. Pearson on Instagram on Monday, who called Bunting a talented photographer and model. "She did what she loved on both sides of the lens."

"Just woke up to the devastating news that we lost a talented member of the urbex [abandoned/urban exploration] community."
Photographer Michael E. Pearson

Witnesses told 6ABC that Bunting was with her boyfriend, standing just inside a storm drain under Ryan Avenue in Pennypack Creek to photograph the nearby scenery, when a powerful wave of water from nearby flash flooding hit the two from behind.

Bunting's boyfriend, who has not been identified, was able to pull himself out of the water and survived. But he could not find Bunting, who had been swept away, friends told 6ABC. Police were called around 6:15 p.m. on June 2, and the search was called off roughly three hours later as lightning storms and rain battered the region.

Bunting's body was found at 10 a.m. on Sunday in the creek upstream of Frankford Avenue, police said.

Bunting worked as a waitress at Miller's Ale House, in addition to working as a photographer and model. She for years had been photographing abandoned and formerly industrial spaces, sometimes known as "ruin porn," and maintained a photography website, abandonedcentral.com. She posted her photography on Instagram under the handle @_bword.

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Rescue workers struggle as 'fire' volcano spews hot mud flow

GETTY IMAGES

Rescue workers struggled in perilous conditions to find bodies under rivers of ash and mud that swept down from Guatemala's Fuego volcano on Monday, as the number of fatalities from an eruption that partially buried buildings rose to 62.

Structures and trees at the base of the Fuego volcano were completely coated in brown and gray. A policeman wearing a blue surgical mask stumbled in the muck as he ran from a cloud of ash pouring down the slope behind him, Reuters photos showed.

The eruption of Fuego — Spanish for "fire" — on Sunday was the biggest in more than four decades, forcing the closure of Guatemala's main international airport and dumping ash on thousands of acres (hectares) of coffee farms on the volcano's slopes.

Guatemala's national disaster agency, CONRED, said the death toll was 62, up from an earlier 25, as more bodies were pulled from the ash around the village of El Rodeo, which was hard hit by the eruption.

Local news media reported more bodies had been found, though it was unclear whether more people died in a second eruption on Monday morning.

The task of pulling out bodies was halting, after the new eruption and an apparent landslide on the southern slopes of Fuego triggered fresh evacuations.

"They gave the emergency order to evacuate, and we all went running," one rescue volunteer said on television. "We were pulling out bodies. We're going to wait a half hour before entering again.".

A Reuters witness near the volcano said more people had been evacuated beyond a 5-mile perimeter from the site after the latest explosion.

Fuego, one of several active volcanoes out of 34 in the Central American country, is near the colonial city of Antigua, a UNESCO world heritage site that has survived several volcanic eruptions. The latest activity is mostly on the far side of the volcano, facing the Pacific coast.

Around 300 people have been injured since the eruption on Sunday that sent columns ash and smoke 6.2 miles into the sky, dusting several regions with ash.

300

Around 300 people have been injured since the eruption on Sunday that sent columns ash and smoke 6.2 miles (10 km) into the sky, dusting several regions with ash.

CONRED shared a photo showing the flows of gas and mud sweeping down a mountainside and across a broad valley, engulfing a small village.

"The landscape on the volcano is totally changed, everything is totally destroyed," government volcanologist Gustavo Chigna said on local radio.

The agency also launched an online registry of missing people.

The eruption showered sand and ash on coffee plants across as much as 6,890 acres, including close to the volcano's cone, causing an estimated loss of 0.91 percent ofGuatemala's coffee production, the country's national coffee association said.

In some areas, rain rinsed ash off the leaves, and the full extent of the damage was not yet clear, the association said. REUTERS

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Suspected Arizona serial killer kills self as officers close in

Dwight Jones is thought to have killed six, including Stephen Pitt, a psychiatrist who consulted on the JonBenet Ramsey murder case.

Dwight Jones SCOTTSDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT

A man suspected of killing six people, including a noted psychiatrist who advised prosecutors investigating high-profile murders, killed himself on Monday as police closed in on the Phoenix-area hotel he was staying, police said.

Investigators had been searching for the suspect, identified as Dwight Jones, 56, since Steven Pitt, a 59-year-old psychiatrist who consulted on serial killings and the 1996 murder of child beauty queen JonBenet Ramsey, was found dead outside his office on Thursday, the first of a string of killings that left the Phoenix area on edge.

Jones fatally shot himself in a hotel room as tactical units closed in to arrest him, police said on Monday. Police originally said the suspect killed four people but on Monday said there were two additional victims.

DNA found on shell casings at the murder scenes and ballistic evidence linked the crimes and led police to Jones, Scottsdale Police Assistant Chief Rich Slavin told a news conference.

"We had a positive hit on Mr. Jones that connects him to all the scenes," he said.

Police believe he may have been seeking revenge from a 2009 divorce case.

In a statement, ex-wife Connie Jones said her former husband was an emotionally disturbed person.

"Personally, I have feared for my safety for the past nine years. I cannot express the emotions I feel for the innocent families touched by this senseless violence," she said.

The other named victims were paralegals Veleria Sharp, 48, and Laura Anderson, 49, and Marshall Levine, a 72-year-old counselor and psychologist, police said. REUTERS

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Is Starbucks allowing 'patrons of color' to skip the line?

JEFFREY GREENBERG/UIG VIA GETTY IMAGES

Starbucks is making big changes after two black Starbucks patrons were arrested in Philadelphia. The store first announced that the bathrooms are now open to anyone "regardless of whether they make a purchase," then closed last week for racial bias training.

Now, a social media post circulating the web shows yet another big change by the Seattle-based chain. According to the post, CEO Kevin Johnson announced that "patrons of color" can automatically move to the head of the line at all Starbucks stores.

The Starbucks CEO has made several comments on ways Starbucks is working to address past issues — like the Philadelphia incident — and keep them from happening again in the future.

"In the weeks and months ahead, we'll address different forms of bias and all aspects of human traits. All customers deserve our respect and fair treatment. We will invest in our teams so they can deliver a great experience to every customer who comes through our doors," Starbucks tweeted on May 29.

The fake "patrons of color" comment is one in a long line of hoaxes involving Starbucks. In May, a photo of a Starbucks sign that said the chain was "closed today to educate white people about their racism" went viral — a sign that Starbucks said was fake.

Why are there so many Starbucks hoaxes? It's simple: People love Starbucks coffee, so the trolls who start them know they'll spread rapidly. Add controversy based on recent events and it's the recipe for a tasty hoax.

So no, Starbucks isn't letting anyone skip the line or get free coffee based on race or citizenship status. It's best to just check the company's official Twitter and Facebook pages to get the latest information on promotions and policy changes.

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Trump's lying is getting worse, and this is how bad it could get

If you thought Trump was spinning as fast as he can — you haven't seen anything yet.

MICHAEL MARTIN
letters@metro.us

"People are less likely to criticize the unethical actions of others when such behavior increases gradually over time."

Tali Sharot and Neil Garrett

GETTY IMAGES

It's not your imagination: The pace of President Donald Trump's lying has accelerated. In the first 100 days of his presidency, Trump made 4.9 false claims a day. By May 1 the count was up to nine Trump lies a day, according to the Fact Checker blog at the Washington Post.

At this rate, Trump could make 19 false claims every day by the end of his term, say a pair of psychologists who looked into possible reasons behind the increase.

Tali Sharot and Neil Garrett considered the possibility that the president had to tell more lies to cover up previous untruths, or that lying had positive consequences, encouraging more of it.

Why are the Trump lies accelerating?

But they said the president's behavior could most likely be explained by research they published in 2016 in the journal Neuroscience: A concept called emotional adaptation. Basically, emotions are what prevent us from lying all the time; we may feel shame or discomfort after fibbing. But the researchers found that frequent liars have less and less emotional response to their untruths.

And the audience for the lies can become desensitized too, which just encourages more lying. "People are less likely to criticize the unethical actions of others when such behavior increases gradually over time," say Sharot and Garrett. "Politically speaking, this suggests that voters (and perhaps even the president's own advisors) may desensitize to the president's falsehoods in the same way that they do to overused perfume, making them less likely to act to correct this pattern of behavior. The absence of sanctions could in turn be interpreted as a 'green light' by the president."

If that's the case, Trump cranked the top down and blew through a city's worth of perceived green lights in his rally in Nashville last Tuesday: In a campaign appearance for Senate candidate Marsha Blackburn, Trump told 35 lies in one speech.

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the GRUMBLE

Pat King
Grumble Editor

A common theme we have found through our reader responses has been that people should be more aware of what they are doing and where they are going. Today's Grumble from a reader known as "Jane P." hammers that point across in a tremendous way.

VENT TO US!
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People of Earth: Be aware of your surroundings!

BY JANE P., METRO US READER

In response to a grumble a couple of weeks ago re: "Don't rush for a seat in a subway if you're in the office all day but offer to people on their feet all day, e.g. a construction worker": By no means defend a teenager or an young adult that simply sits there watching his electronic device and not noticing an (older) lady standing near him, but generally I don't believe it's fair to assume that one with an office job deserves a seat over a construction worker. A female in my late 30s, I will always stand up for an elderly (and I will always look around before sitting down), but did you know that days when I am in calls and meetings all day, I can barely keep my eyes open on my way home? Mental exhaustion is a different kind of beast. What about an ER doctor?

We live in a fast-paced world. So pay attention! ISTOCK

Did you know they're on their feet most of their endless shifts? A parent looking young with a baby at home/kindergarten that likely had 1-2 hours of sleep last night, and the night before? Stay objective. Reserve judgment as you don't know all facts. Don't judge people by their clothes, there is more to it.

There are very small things we can do collectively. Slow down when someone is in front of you; pushing them or stepping on their shoes won't get you anywhere faster. Don't get too close. You DO have five seconds (ask yourself if the world will collapse if you slow down for five seconds). Try not to brush against anyone — you never know if that person is in physical therapy with a shoulder you just aggressively brushed against while rushing to pass by. If there is room, walk on the right side of the street because there is someone always walking faster than you. Do this especially if you're staring down on your phone. Watch where you are going. I constantly see people bumping into each other. And mostly, just spend 30 seconds to look around — I often witness just how oblivious people are; completely unaware of anyone or anything going on around them. Together, with these microscopic behavior adjustments, we can make our lives easier.

Tell us what you think!
@metrophilly

METRO US READER:

I'M NOT A TOWEL!

To all those guys hosing down the sidewalks (and really ...why? no one is eating off the sidewalk and the frequent rain should be enough to clean it) who stop spraying when people walk by.. can you please wait a little longer after we pass to start resuming spraying? It is always a little too soon resulting in getting wet.
In the same vein, when people wash their hands in the bathroom and there are no towels or dryers ... do NOT start shaking your hands dry in the air when people are standing right next to you. I'm not a towel!
- Steven Brinn, *Metro US reader*

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The winning caption from Lisa Mahoney, *Metro Boston reader*

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Aries Watch out for someone trying to lead you in the wrong direction. Take better care of your health and rely on your intelligence and resourcefulness to help you get ahead.

Taurus Take control and bring about the changes that will make you feel good about yourself and the direction you are headed. Don't let someone's boldness intimidate you.

Gemini Stay focused on what you are trying to achieve. Actions and intelligence will show you mean business and that you are willing to see matters through to the end.

Cancer Take a unique approach to your responsibilities if you want to find new ways to use your skills and attributes. Personal improvements and educational pursuits are favored.

Leo Don't take a risk or get involved in a dubious joint venture. Persuasive tactics will be used to try and convince you of the merits of a plan that lacks substance.

Virgo Examine what's being offered or how something is handled before you put your reputation on the line. Play it safe and only take part in endeavors helmed by trustworthy people.

Libra Speak up and let others know what's on your mind. Personal problems will develop if someone puts pressure on you to do something you don't want to do.

Scorpio Stick close to home and the people you trust. You will accomplish the most if you are diligent and embrace change using uncommon methods.

Sagittarius Emotional manipulation will disrupt your day. Whether it's you or someone else using persuasive tactics, the outcome will not be satisfactory. It's best to be honest and move on.

Capricorn Consider people and ideas from your past to help you move forward. Attending a reunion will bring back memories that will help you make decisions. An emotional relationship will take a unique turn.

Aquarius Make changes for the right reason. Don't act out of spite or because someone else prompts you to. Focus on home, family and gaining greater stability.

Pisces Be courageous and try something new. A personal change will open a window of opportunity. Love, romance and physical improvement are highlighted. Do your own fact-finding. EUGENIA LAST

'Humans' offers 'Westworld' fans a simpler, enjoyable alternative

The sci-fi series returns Tuesday night.

ANDREW HUSBAND
letters@metro.us

The synths are back. ALL PHOTOS COLIN HUTTON/KUDOS/OH4/AMC

Aside from viral videos depicting Boston Dynamics' latest robotics innovations, our current fascination with artificial intelligence is largely thanks to HBO's provocative "Westworld."

This is totally understandable, as the slick dystopian series based on Michael Crichton's 1973 film has become one of TV's most-talked about science fiction dramas in recent memory. Meanwhile, AMC and Channel 4's "Humans" receives far less attention from critics and audiences alike, but that doesn't mean it isn't as good, especially now that Season 3 is about to debut.

Adapted from the Swedish show "Real Humans" by Sam Vincent and Jonathan Brackley, "Humans" tackles the possible ramifications of a near future in which androids called "synths" are publicly available for purchase and use. Instead of starting with a bang, as "Westworld" would do a year later, "Humans" opted for a far more simpler and intimate route.

Season 1 centers around the Hawkins family and their purchasing Anita (Gemma Chan). Aside from the turmoil Anita's arrival causes between married couple Laura (Katherine Parkinson) and Joe (Tom Goodman-Hill), the "new" synth also turns out to be a much older, and far more special, android. That's because Dr. David Elster (Stephen Boxer) created her away from the prying eyes of his former partners and gave her consciousness.

The remainder of the first season explores the additional sentient synths Elster created, their struggles to provide consciousness to other subservient androids and Elster's ex-partners' desire to stop them. Season 2, meanwhile, pushes the synths' efforts to bestow consciousness on all other robots to the extreme. The result? "Day Zero," when a "consciousness code" is uploaded to synths across the globe, resulting in the deaths of thousands.

Season 3 jumps ahead one year after the code's uploading to see where society has progressed. Things don't seem too great, as sentient synths are now being segregated into camps by vengeful, fearful humans. Some, like human Laura Hawkins and Elster synth Max (Ivanno Jeremiah) and the rescued synth Flash (Ritu Arya), campaign for robots rights. Others, like a group of synth terrorists, aren't interested in peaceful solutions. They even resort to violence against their own to prove as much.

If Season 3 sounds intriguing, but you haven't already watched the first two seasons, both are available to stream for Amazon Prime viewers. Otherwise, if the series doesn't sound immediately appealing, but you're on the lookout for something to replace "Westworld" in a few weeks, then you may want to give "Humans" a shot.

"Humans" Season 3 debuts tonight at 10 p.m. on AMC.

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Jim Parsons talks 'A Kid Like Jake'

"The Big Bang Theory" star opens up about the new film and "gracefully" discussing the topic of gender transitions.

GREGORY WAKEMAN
Gregory.Wakeman@metro.us

"A Kid Like Jake" hits streaming services June 8. IFC FILMS

In the wrong creative hands, "A Kid Like Jake" could have been a mess.

That's because its title character is a 4-year-old boy who prefers dressing up as Cinderella to G.I. Joe. But the main drama of the film takes place between his parents, Alex Wheeler (Claire Danes) and Greg (Jim Parsons), who are at odds over whether Jake is being labeled prematurely or is actually showing signs that he could eventually transition gender.

Parsons tells Metro that he never had any worries that "A Kid Like Jake" would court unwanted controversy. Instead, after reading Daniel Pearle's adaptation of his own stage play, the word that immediately came to mind for the actor was "graceful."

"Daniel has taken a hot-button topic — the idea of gender-fluidity and the possibility of someone growing into being a transgender person eventually — and put it through this very specific lens of a tiny nuclear family trying to get their child into school, something that many people go through in one way or another," he says. "One of the beauties of the language of this film, and the way that people talk about Jake and whether or not he is expressing curiosity about his own gender or if he is just playing as a kid, is that most people have had these conversations, just not about this topic."

GETTY IMAGES

Parsons didn't see Pearle's play when it was on at the Claire Tow Theater back in 2013. But when the script was sent to him four years ago, he immediately saw its potential. Not just as an actor, but as a producer, too, as "A Kid Like Jake" marks his first feature film as the latter.

"I hope it takes away the fear for people that think they don't understand this issue or have never experienced it firsthand," Parsons says. "It's nothing to be scared of. It's just another aspect of being a human being, and trying to do what is right for your child."

Ever the actor, Parsons, who admits "there was certainly a section of time when [he] didn't think this was going to happen" and calls the completion of the film a "miracle," took particular enjoyment in fighting with Danes, especially because of Pearle's writing.

"What stood out for me was the way that the characters talked and fought with each other," Parsons says. "Daniel Pearle has a real ear for how people argue and discuss things and how they get down and dirty with things.

"Even though shooting those scenes can be awful in many ways, both me and Claire have admitted that we want to do them again," he adds. "Because it is great, great fun to get involved in scenes like that, that are so well-crafted."

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The best places for Philadelphia souvenirs

We've got something for everyone.

JENNIFER LOGUE
jennifer.logue@metro.us

Looking for the best Philadelphia souvenirs? It's not a one-size-fits-all kind of scenario. Some people like the traditional gift shops, while others are a little more niche in their tastes.

What a sports fan is looking for in the best Philadelphia souvenirs would be different from what a foodie or an art lover would be looking for. To help you navigate the many Philly-forward purchases you could make in town, we've compiled a list of the best places for Philadelphia souvenirs. From locally crafted artwork to the sweetest of confections to the ultimate vintage jerseys,

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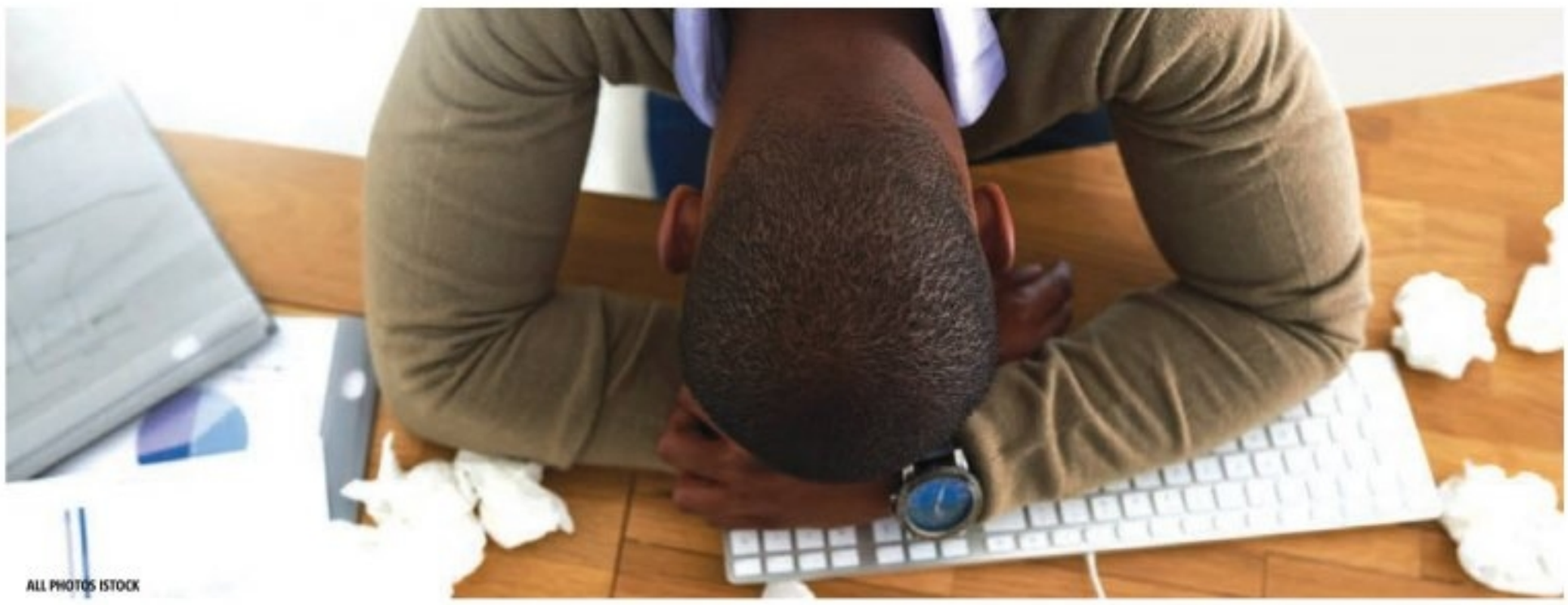

ALL PHOTOS ISTOCK

To put it lightly, this time of year is absolutely brutal for people with seasonal allergies. Normally, walking down a street lined by trees would be a pleasant experience. But in the early stages of summer — AKA, allergy season— sidewalks that run through such lush terrain can become pollen caked death traps. And forget sleeping with a cracked window to get a nice fresh breeze at night. That is a one way ticket to waking up with a puffy face, runny nose and throat full of who knows what. In fact, clearing your throat and trying not to lose your voice can be a constant struggle. So what can you do to make sure your voice remains in good shape this allergy season?

Losing your voice to allergy season

So aside from having to clear your throat after having a runny nose both day and night, why does your voice seem to constantly give out during allergy season? Well, it's actually the result of a combination of few different factors. If you are allergic to things like pollen, mold, dust, or pet dander, these allergens can cause your throat to swell up which can cause your throat to become horse much like a sore throat.

If that wasn't enough, many of the medications on the market used to combat a runny nose and teary eyes can also dry out your throat as a side effect, thus creating a vicious cycle that can wreak havoc on your vocal chords. Forget blowing your friends' minds at karaoke with that rendition of "Livin' on a Prayer" you've been working on all winter. They'll never look at you the same once you try to croak out those high notes. So what can you do?

Keeping your voice in singing shape

In order to not lose your voice, the name of the game is making sure your vocal chords remain lubricated while clearing your throat of mucus buildups. It's a tricky tightrope to walk. But according to Dr. S. Brett Heavener, an Otolaryngologist at Charlotte Ear Eyes Nose and Throat Associates, it can be done with the right kind of medication.

"There are many treatment options for allergies," explained Dr. Heavener in a blog post by CEENA. "For professional voice users, topical medications like nasal steroids and nasal antihistamines seem to work better since they have less of a drying effect on the throat and voice."

So if you are losing the battle of keeping your voice this allergy season, make sure to look for nasal sprays and avoid powerful pills with antihistamines that will not only dry up your runny nose, but will dry your throat as well.

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2018 World Cup Preview: Group A

JOE PANTORNO
joseph.pantorno@metro.us

EGYPT

"THE PHARAOHS"

TIMES QUALIFIED: 3
LAST APPEARANCE: 1990
BEST FINISH: 13th (1934)
WORLD RANKING: 46th

THE STAR
MOHAMED SALAH

We've seen stars representing smaller countries in past World Cups, whether it was Didier Drogba with the Ivory Coast or Edin Dzeko with Bosnia and Herzegovina, to name a couple. But there is no other player in the world right now playing better than Egypt's Mohamed Salah, who is coming off a monumental season with Liverpool in the Premier League, which included a trip to the Champions League Final. He is the sole reason as to why Egypt qualified for its first World Cup Finals in 28 years and will be reason why they'll have any sort of success in Russia. All eyes will be on that dislocated shoulder picked up in the Champions League Final against Real Madrid.

FIFA WORLD CUP
RUSSIA 2018
09 DAYS

RUSSIA

"SBORNAYA"

TIMES QUALIFIED: 11
LAST APPEARANCE: 2014
BEST FINISH: 4th (1966)
WORLD RANKING: 66th

THE STAR
IGOR AKINFEEV

This will be the first time that the World Cup is being held in Russia and the hosts don't have an overly difficult group. It could mean that the home fans could see a possible run to the knockout stages despite its meager world ranking. History suggests they'll be in trouble though considering Russia has bowed out at the group stage in each of its last four World Cup appearances.

SAUDI ARABIA

"THE GREEN FALCONS"

TIMES QUALIFIED: 5
LAST APPEARANCE: 2006
BEST FINISH: 12th (1994)
WORLD RANKING: 67th

THE STAR
NAWAF AL ABED

The lowest-ranked team of Group A doesn't offer much experience on any major international stage. However, they do have some talent playing in some of the world's top leagues outside of Saudi Arabia. While Nawa Al Abed is the engine that will keep the Green Falcons' midfield running, there is talent in the form of Salem Al-Dawsari and Fahad Al-Muwallad, who play in Spain's La Liga for Villarreal and Levante, respectively.

URUGUAY

"THE SKY BLUE"

TIMES QUALIFIED: 13
LAST APPEARANCE: 2014
BEST FINISH: WINNERS ('30, '34)
WORLD RANKING: 17th

THE STAR
LUIS SUAREZ

This could be Uruguay's last chance at glory on the World Cup stage for quite some time. Both Luis Suarez and Edinson Cavani are 31 and capable of leading the nation to the top of Group A with little issue. This is by far the best side of the foursome with plenty of international and World Cup experience to steer the Sky Blue into the knockout stages of the tournament, which is familiar territory for them.

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NBA WORLD LAUGHING AT SIXERS, AGAIN

The Bryan Colangelo saga has the NBA world chuckling at the Sixers once again. GETTY IMAGES

OPINION

GLEN MACNOW
@RealGlenMacnow

A full week has elapsed since we first learned about Collargate — the dark-comedy scandal involving Sixers GM Bryan Colangelo and the five secret Twitter accounts. It took less time for the local basketball franchise to be regarded as a laughingstock.

LeBron James, of all people, drove home the point. At a news conference Saturday, King James was asked if he was aware of a series of tweets from Cavaliers owner Dan Gilbert assessing his own team.

"No," said LeBron. "I'm not on social media right now, so I was not aware of that."

Pause. Smile …

"But if was his account though, right? Ba-dum-tsss."

That last sound was LeBron imitating a drum's rim shot for emphasis. But his audience of NBA insiders didn't need the prompt. They chortled mightily at his veiled reference to the ineptitude coming out of Philadelphia.

And that's what it has come to. A few weeks ago, the 76ers were considered a rising franchise, with two young cornerstones, a 52-win season and the chance to add the biggest available stars this summer.

Suddenly, they are a punchline.

It's their own fault, as usual. Soon after the blockbuster The Ringer piece broke last Monday, the Sixers issued a terse statement declaring an independent inquiry was underway. Since then, nothing. No peep from anyone in the front office. Colangelo has not been fired, nor resigned, nor even taken a temporary leave. His name was on the release last week announcing head coach Brett Brown's contract extension.

The longer the Sixers wait to act, of course, the more this becomes perceived as an organizational problem, rather than just one guy's paranoia. As they dither, the clock ticks down, with the NBA draft and free agency quickly approaching.

We shouldn't be surprised, really. Sixers ownership has been a clown car of embarrassments since private equity prince Josh Harris and his partners bought the franchise for $280 million in 2011. They've been through a parade of CEOs and GMs, tanked three-plus seasons and then fired the architect of that plan just as it turned the corner, and got caught lying multiple times about player injuries.

This is an ownership group that once pushed aside its own PA announcer, held a contest to replace him — and then hired back the same guy. The same jokers who ran a mascot competition, learned the fans hated all three choices, and then pretended the whole thing never happened.

Harris and his private-equity pals know how to make money, but they don't know Philadelphia. If they did, they wouldn't also own the NHL's New Jersey Devils, a top-three rival of the local hockey squad.

You can argue that these owners are carpetbaggers, who'll eventually flip the Sixers to the next rich guy. Or you can argue that they're dilettantes who enjoy rubbing shoulders at games with celebs like Meek Mill and M. Night Shyamalan.

What you can't argue is that sitting on the Colangelo decision for a week is anything but dumb.

Whether Bryan, his wife, or some magical hacker authored the offending tweets doesn't much matter now. This has become less of a legal matter and more one of whether the business can successfully move forward. The only question is whether the scandal has rendered Colangelo completely ineffectual.

And the answer is obvious. LeBron gave it to you Saturday night — with a joke and a rim shot.

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Phillies prospects: Promotions for Hall, Cozens

A couple of sluggers received call-ups in the system last week.

JOVAN ALFORD
jovan.alford@metro.us

Dylan Cozens got the call up last week. GETTY IMAGES

Around this time last year, Rhys Hoskins, Scott Kingery, and J.P. Crawford were all dominating in the minor leagues. All three players eventually got their calls to the big leagues and have not looked back.

This season, the Philadelphia Phillies are waiting for the next crop of talented minor leaguers to rise up and make their case on why they should be promoted to the next level.

Here is a quick report on how a few players in the Phillies' minor league system are faring through the first few months of the season.

1. Lehigh Valley (AAA), P, Tom Eshelman - The 23-year old starting pitcher is struggling this season with the IronPigs. In 11 starts, he has an ERA of 7.06 and a record of 1-5. On Saturday night, Eshelman was roughed up by the Toledo Mud Hens, only lasting of the first inning and giving up seven earned runs.
In 51 innings pitched this season, the right-hander has surrendered 10 home runs, which is more than he gave up in 2017 (8) with Lehigh Valley.

2. Reading (AA), 1B, Darick Hall - On a lighter note, there were multiple promotions last week within the Phils' system and Darick Hall received one of them. The 22-year old was promoted from Single-A Clearwater to Double-A Reading on Friday, after dominating Florida State League pitching.

In 48 games with the Threshers this season, Hall had a triple slash line of .277/.367/.538 plus 11 home runs and 35 RBI. Hall was drafted in the 14th round of the 2016 MLB Draft by the Phillies.

The former Dallas Baptist product could be the next good power hitting first baseman in the Phils' system.

3. Lehigh Valley (AAA), OF, Dylan Cozens - The 24 year-old slugger received great news last week as he got called up to the big league club. Cozens replaced outfielder Rhys Hoskins, who was put on the 10-day disabled with a fractured jaw.

This season with Lehigh Valley, Cozens continued to do what he does best and that is hitting home runs. In 168 at bats, he had 10 home runs with 25 RBI, but an overwhelming 75 strikeouts.

If Cozens wants to stay with the Phillies long-term, he must cut down on the strikeouts.

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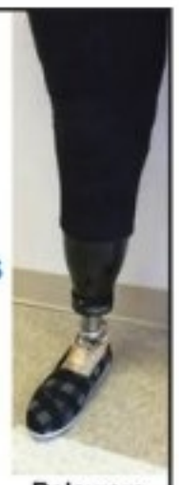

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4 Vital vessel
9 Now and __; occasionally
13 Plane ticket cost
14 French __; fast food item
15 Toy with a string
16 Leave out
17 Thoroughbreds & trotters
19 __ it; understand
20 Sworn statements
21 Pushover
22 TV's Mandel
24 Rooster's mate
25 Insist
27 __ rooster; feisty fowl
30 Stinks
31 Rock or Christie
33 Henpeck
35 __ and crafts
36 Sandbar
37 Name for a Beatle
38 Nintendo video game console
39 Composer Carmichael
40 Bisect
41 Iced pastry
43 __ jumping; sport for the daring
44 __ the rage; very popular
45 Bart Simpson's mom
46 Macabre figure
49 "Bring to __"; recipe phrase
51 Plant
54 Sounds familiar
56 "__ eyes have seen the glory..."
57 Curved overhead beam
58 Air freshener brand
59 __ tea
60 Buzzers
61 __ Wetsy; classic doll
62 Long-eared animal

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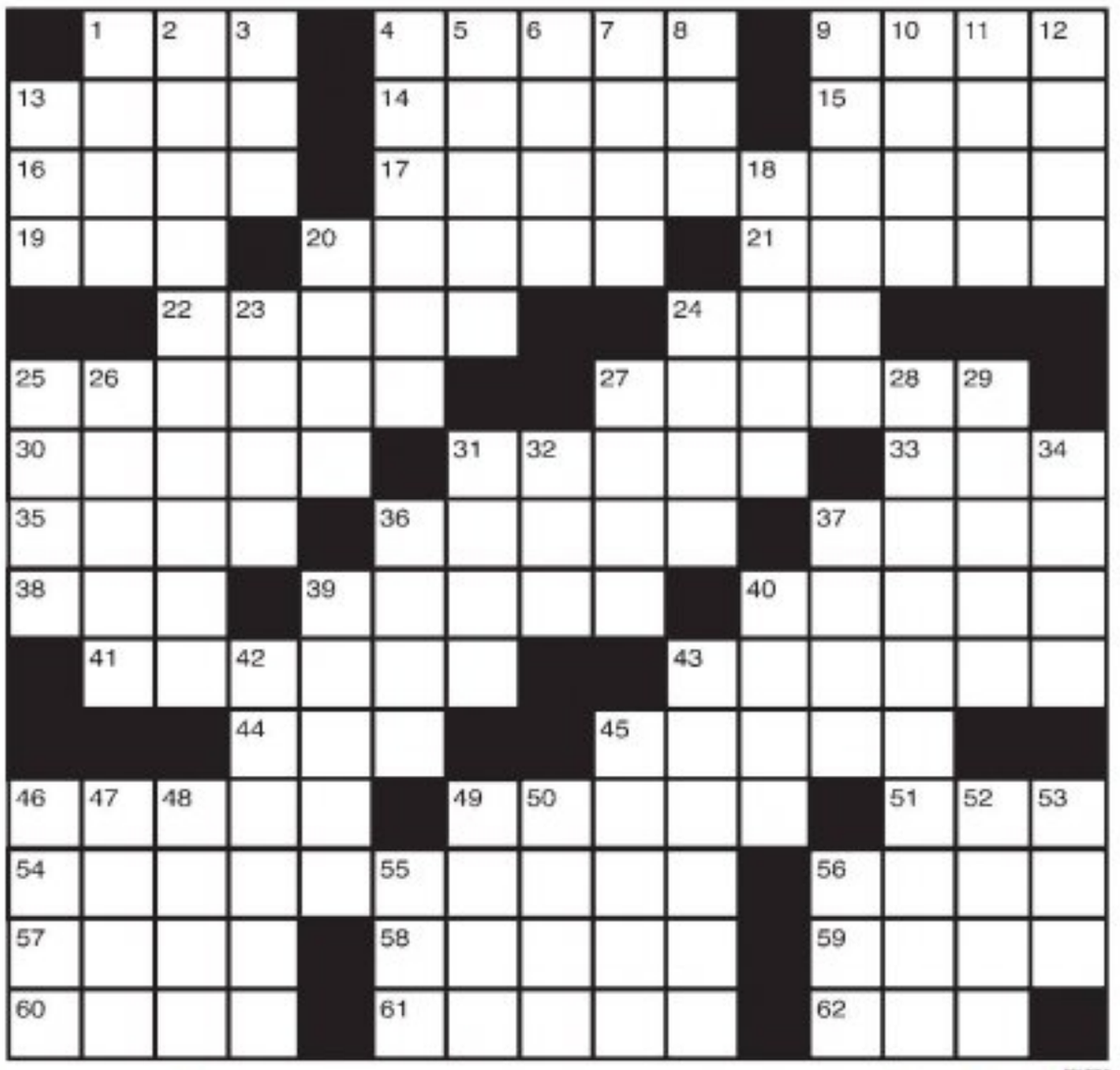
4 Terrified
5 Preach
6 Well-to-do
7 Ball holders
8 Hardwood tree
9 Despot
10 Emcee
11 Observes
12 Prying
13 Dangerous driving condition
18 Many golf tournaments
20 Possesses
23 Thousand __, CA
24 "__ to the Chief"
25 Sketch
26 Uncanny
27 Hee-haw
28 Aspirin, e.g.
29 Shade of purple
31 Scorch
32 Large swine
34 Happiness
36 Dirt
37 Sign of hunger
39 Corridors
40 Throw
42 Giggles
43 Barnum's partner
45 Shapes
46 Snatch
47 Bring on board
48 __ again; a second time
49 Qualified
50 Defeat
52 Change for a five
53 Tie the knot
55 Telephone inventor's monogram
56 Actress Farrow



BY TCA

metro.us/wordsearch

T	N	N	S	T	R	E	E	P	R
H	A	I	K	R	E	L	L	E	K
A	M	O	R	A	F	R	A	N	K
T	B	N	A	H	B	C	E	N	L
C	U	T	P	R	X	L	Z	S	L
H	T	E	B	A	Z	I	L	E	A
E	U	O	L	E	G	N	A	M	D
R	A	Y	N	O	H	T	N	A	O
T	L	E	V	E	S	O	O	R	O
Z	D	Y	E	R	F	N	I	W	G

Angelou
Anthony
Clinton
Earhart
Elizabeth
Frank
Goodall
Keller
Parks
Roosevelt
Streep
Teresa
Thatcher
Tubman
Winfrey

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E	S	I	
E	D	P	L
A	E	O	E
D	P	E	

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3						5		
2		9	1		5	3		6
	8	5	3	7			9	
			9		1			8
			6	3	4			
5			7		2			
	5			2	7	9	6	
4		6	5		3	8		7
		2						5

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N	E	S	T			S	O	B	S		S	I	C	K
O	S	C	A	R		L	U	A	U		C	O	L	E
S	P	I	N	E		O	R	A	N	G	U	T	A	N
E	Y	E		V	A	T			S	A	L	A	D	S
		N	E	I	G	H			H	I	P			
O	C	T	A	V	E			P	I	N	T	O	S	
A	R	I	S	E		S	E	A	N	S		V	I	A
R	E	S	T		F	O	R	T	E		D	E	E	P
S	E	T		F	I	L	E	S		D	I	R	G	E
	P	S	E	U	D	O			P	I	S	C	E	S
			G	E	E			B	E	N	C	H		
S	T	R	O	L	L			E	W	E		A	G	B
L	O	U	I	S	I	A	N	A		R	A	R	E	R
A	N	T	S		T	R	O	D		S	I	G	M	A
P	O	S	T		Y	E	N	S			L	E	S	T

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